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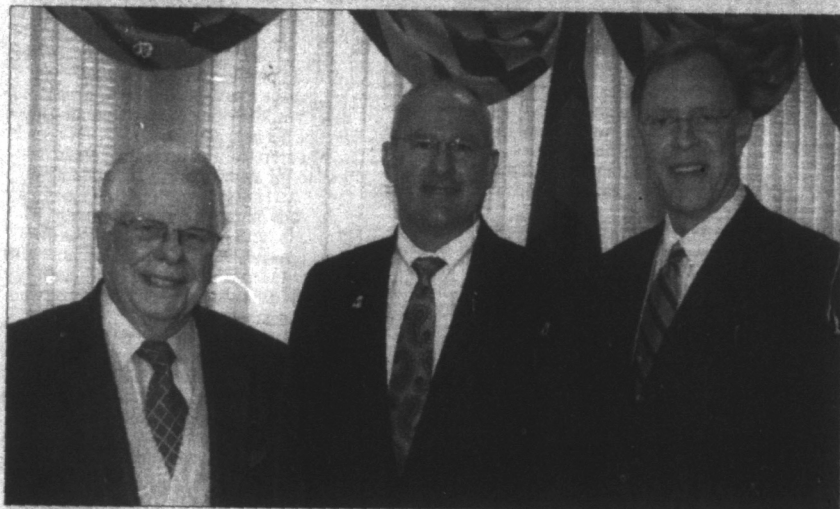
November 20, 2014  
www.mbc.org

# THE Baptist Record

Vol. 138  
No. 46

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD



Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, chosen at the board's organization meeting after the adjournment of the 2014 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in late October, are (from left) Hardy Denham, secretary; Mark Vincent, president; and Greg Warnock, vice president. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## 2015 Executive Committee

<b>Gary Adams, pastor</b> Bridgeway Church Holly Springs	<b>Ken Hester, pastor</b> First Church Pontotoc	<b>Joel Stroud, pastor</b> Lyon Church Lyon
<b>Doug Broome, pastor</b> First Church Natchez	<b>Bobby Kirk, member</b> Roundway Church Doddsville	<b>Lloyd Sweatt, pastor</b> Meadowood Church Amory
<b>Kent Campbell, pastor</b> Woodlawn Church Vicksburg	<b>Charles Lipe, pastor</b> Clear Creek Church Taylors	<b>Mark Vincent, pastor</b> Clarke Venable Church Decatur (MBCB President)
<b>Clarence Cooper, pastor</b> Brandon Church Brandon	<b>Liz McGraw, member</b> Woodville Church Woodville	<b>Greg Warnock, pastor</b> First Church Brookhaven (MBCB Vice President)
<b>Junior Davis, pastor</b> Williamsville Church Kosciusko	<b>Gary Richardson, pastor</b> North Oxford Church Oxford	<b>Ex Officio:</b> Jim Futral Executive Director-Treasurer MBCB
<b>Hardy Denham</b> (MBCB Secretary) Hattiesburg	<b>Allen Simpson, pastor</b> First Church, Amory Amory	<b>Matt Buckles, pastor</b> First Church, Vicksburg (President, MBC)

## Court dismisses housing lawsuit

**CHICAGO (BP and local reports)** — In an action cheered by Southern Baptist leaders, a federal appeals court has overturned a lower court decision that struck down the 60-year-old ministerial housing allowance.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled Nov.

13 that an atheist organization lacked legal standing to challenge the portion of a 1954 law that permits clergy to exclude for federal income tax purposes a portion or all of their gross income as a housing allowance.

The three-judge appeals panel did not rule on the allowance's constitutionality, but

unanimously rejected a Wisconsin federal judge's invalidation of the provision last November. The appeals court vacated the opinion by Barbara Crabb and instructed her to dismiss the lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction.

see HOUSING on p. 11

## Analysis: HRC wants to win Mississippi's faithful with ad blitz

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** — The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) boasts a notable track record of attempting to alter public opinion on homosexuality, and now it has set its sights on persuading Baptists and other Mississippians that homosexuality is compatible with Christianity.

HRC, which bills itself as the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), civil rights organization, unveiled its All God's Children public relations campaign on Nov. 10 in Jackson. The drive to increase public and legislative support for LGBT rights is focused on faith groups in the state that Gallup pollsters found early this year to be the most religious in the country.

"To HRC, the South embodies the sort of thinking about LGBT rights that is the problem," said John Stonestreet, speaker and fellow with the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview in Lansdowne, Va. "To be successful [in the South] would go a long way to selling the 'historical inevitability' argument we so often hear about acceptance of LGBT rights."

HRC acknowledges the campaign in Mississippi may be the forerunner of others in the South.

KENNEDY

WILSON

Mississippi Baptists are being specifically targeted. Among those appearing in a series of HRC-produced television commercials are Mary Jane Kennedy of Florence, described by HRC as a "Southern Baptist mother," and Stan Wilson, pastor of Northside Church in Clinton.

"We want to successfully engage a majority of Mississippians on the issue of LGBT equality," Jason Rahlan, HRC global engagement press secretary in Washington, D.C., told Baptist Press in an email interview. "This suggests that the best way to do so is to speak — authentically and from the heart — in the context of faith. As this campaign has shown and will continue to show, we're doing just that."

While HRC's working estimate for all Baptists in the state is 55% of the population, Southern Baptists constitute 22-30% of Mississippi residents. The Mississippi Baptist Convention reported nearly 664,000 members in its churches in 2013.

Seeking to convert so many Baptists and other conservative Christians would appear to be a losing proposition for a LGBT group, considering the Bible's clear teaching that sex is reserved for a man and a woman in marriage. HRC, however, seems to think a worthwhile payoff is possible from the \$310,000 campaign.

"All God's Children was also built to test a replicable model that can be used to move people of faith on LGBT issues throughout the South in the future," Rahlan told BP, "and if we find success in this Mississippi campaign, we will absolutely consider similar efforts in other states as well."

HRC already has a campaign that reaches beyond faith communities to promote the LGBT cause in the Deep South. Announced in April, its Project One America seeks to bolster LGBT equality in Alabama, Arkansas,

see HRC on p. 9

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Trashing a profession

I don't recall a time in my life when I thought of any career other than journalism. During my growing up years in the Mississippi Delta, my parents subscribed to four daily newspapers and three weekly newspapers from three states. In addition, there was a boundless list of magazines that included everything from *Better Homes and Gardens* to *Popular Science* to *American Rifleman*. (I suspect Publisher's Clearing House had something to do with the magazine thing.)

I tried to soak in as much of all that information as I could. I loved reading the county-seat weekly newspapers, with their local club reports and letters to Santa Claus. I loved the daily newspapers for the national and international news and the sports sections. I loved the magazines, which featured articles on everything from how to winterize flowerbeds to the best way to disassemble a .45 pistol.

There was one thing I noticed, over and over again, as I pored over all those pages. The publications and the writers had integrity. I believed I could trust them for the truth. Whether the article was about the Vietnam War or sending a man to the moon, I believed in the author and I believed in the name of the publication.

When I left for college to study journalism, it was my dream coming true. I have had occasion to meet great journalists and authors during my 40 years in the business. It was as if many of them exuded the integrity and professionalism I sought. I wanted to be like them. I must say that the Lord has blessed me across the years with many opportunities in this line of work to serve Him and serve the people for whom I reported the news.

Perhaps I grew up in a golden age of journalism. Perhaps I was youthfully naive. Perhaps I'm just terminally idealistic. I know this: I have lost my respect for much of what passes for journalism today.

Numerous polls of the American people in recent years have placed journalists at or near the bottom of the list of trusted professions, just above some pretty

disreputable ways to earn a living. No wonder. Many journalists today have brought dishonor to their profession. Many journalists — and many publications — don't tell us the whole truth. There's too much favoritism in what's supposed to be balanced reporting, especially when it comes to politics.

My heart broke once again when I read that a journalist of the stature of Sharyl Attkisson felt she had to leave CBS News after being told by her superiors over and over to spike her reporting on certain political personalities. Longtime CBS newsman Bernard Goldberg tells essentially the same story, as do dozens of other reputable journalists.

One inarguably major story recently — John Gruber's revelations that Obamacare is a fraud — has been completely skipped by news giants CBS, NBC, and the New York Times because of the poor image it cast on one of their favorite politicians: U.S. President Barack Obama. Whether an Obama supporter or not, Americans should consider how this grave professional decision on the part of the news media seriously undercuts their integrity.

It's not a revelation that some reporters and news organizations have agendas, or that some reporting is unfair. No profession is perfect, and every profession has scoundrels who bring shame to an honest line of work. The revelation — at least to some of us but not to others who suspected it all along — is that there are established networks of journalists today who collaborate on ways to advance their causes and destroy those who would oppose them. Google the word, "JournoList," for more information on that topic.

What a disgrace. We should keep this type of conduct in mind when the news media report on Christians. There's no doubt some reporters actually plot to cast us in the worst possible light, and many more of them simply don't like us. Unfortunately, all of that is reflected in their (mis)reporting about Christians and Christianity.

Get used to it. It's obviously here to stay.

## Christians and LGBTQ

There is currently an attempt underway by LGBTQ activists to encourage faith communities to embrace homosexuality, gays, lesbians, transgenders, bisexuals, and those questioning their sexual orientation.

The LGBTQ equal rights movement has been unsuccessful in their attempts to get mainstream Christianity to adopt same sex marriage, and equally unsuccessful in getting Christians *en masse* to abandon the clear teaching of Scripture against same sex unions, sexual experimentation, and experiences outside of the prescribed one man-one woman (husband/wife) formula.

They are now blatantly using unrelated topics like circumcision or blatantly misinterpreting and misapplying teachings on loving others to say churches should accept same sex marriage. I want to be a clear voice in this confusing time. Here is how I see it:

■ Same sex marriage, same sex sexual relationships, etc., are clearly not advocated in Scripture.

■ When the Bible speaks of marriage, it is never a union of two men or of two women.

■ When the Bible does speak of marriage, it is always a heterosexual relationship even when the text is about dissolution of marriage.

■ Though the Bible does not have excessive numbers of texts about homosexuality, every single mention of same sex sexual relationships is in a negative light. Never is homosexuality put forth as a God-given, God-honoring, God-pleasing lifestyle. Never.

Please do not ask, insist, or try to strong arm me into accepting same sex marriage as God's Way. It is not, has not been, and shall never be God's will. If it were otherwise, He would have told us. He would have inspired His Word to endorse and condone rather than abhor and vilify the lifestyle.

There is more. While I view homosexuality as a sin, I do not see it as a sin worse than anything I have done. I have consciously joined Paul in saying, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst." (1 Tim. 1:15 NIV)

It has been said, "God hates sin, but loves the sinner." So He does, and so should we. I do not, never have, and never will advocate bashing or hurting members of the LGBTQ community. I pray for them. I witness to them. I speak the truth in love from God's Word with them.

In the end, I cannot change them. Their choices, lifestyles, thoughts, and actions are between God and them. He alone is their Supreme Judge, even as He is my Judge also.



Guest opinion  
with Wayne VanHorn

Sometimes it is hard to maintain the delicate balance between denouncing the homosexual lifestyle and loving those who "come out." Yet, maintaining the balance is crucial. I reach out to homosexuals just like I would a person overtaken in adultery. I do not have to accept adultery as a viable lifestyle in order to love, forgive, and minister to the one taken in adultery.

By nature I am an apolitical person. I tend to shy away from conflict and follow the biblical injunction, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18 ESV). I also note that the same Apostle Paul who wrote Romans 12:18 also wrote 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, wherein Paul counsels distancing oneself from those who commit sexual immorality.

In 1 Cor. 5, the sexual sin is that of incest, but both the realm of sin (human sexuality) and the forum of action (the faith community) are the same as the present initiative to get the faith community to embrace homosexuality as normal, moral, honorable, even God-given.

If I am wrong, I pray God to correct both me and His inspired Word so the confusion will end, but if His Word is truth, and I emphatically believe it is, then I pray for God to change the hearts of those who would live contrary to His Word.

Yes, I tend to be apolitical, but the hyper-activism of the LGBTQ forces even the quietest of people to speak up. I would rather be ostracized, vilified, ridiculed, etc., for speaking up for the Bible as the only authoritative guide to follow on this issue, than to remain silent and give the impression that God is OK with our sins. I did not choose this battle, but if the battle has to be enjoined, let us go forth and stand tall on God's inspired Word.

His Word is still profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Praise and honor be to God and to His Son Jesus Christ.

VanHorn is dean of the School of Christian Studies and the Arts at Mississippi College in Clinton.

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Send changes of  
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Jackson, MS  
39205-0530

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communication,  
and address changes  
to: The Editor, Baptist  
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VOLUME 138 • NUMBER 46 • ISSN-0005-5778  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



# Green family's Bible dream coming true in D.C.

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** — Construction on the Museum of the Bible will begin by Dec. 1 as the final tenants leave the Washington, D.C., site that will house the building just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol, museum board Chairman Steve Green said.

Presenting the archeological evidence of the people, places, and events of the Bible in a non-evangelistic way will hopefully prove the truth of the book, but leave people to decide for themselves whether to accept Jesus as Lord, Green told Baptist Press.

"Evangelism would not be a direct result. The museum would be nonsectarian," Green said. "Our role is just to present the information but I think that, and our hope is that, it would change peoples' lives, that they would realize that this book is something for them to consider, and would embrace its principles and live accordingly."

General contractor Clark Construction is already demolishing the interior of the former Washington Design Center that will house the museum, but will begin construction in earnest as the final tenants' leases expire. The eight-story, 430,000-square-foot museum is slated to open in 2017 with \$800 million in assets.

"We want to invite all people to engage with this book," Green said. "We think education is the first goal, for people to realize how this book has impacted their lives, and then consider the principles and apply them to their own lives because of the benefits that it brings."

The museum will house the Green Collection, the world's largest private collection of rare biblical texts and artifacts, but will also feature additional exhibits designed to immerse visitors of all ages into interactive, biblically-based settings.

The Green family, owners of the Hobby Lobby retail chain, amassed the collection over the past five years and has presented it to the public in a travelling exhibit that Green said has changed the lives of its viewers. The Green family is also known for their steadfast refusal to follow Obamacare dictates that would force abortion-causing drugs (abortifacients) to be made available to employees of Green family companies.

"We've had many that have indicated — and they've gone through our travelling exhibit — it has strengthened their faith for example," Green said of his collection. "They are encouraged by the fact that they can actually see the evidence that shows that what they have

been taught is accurate. We believe that many will be encouraged and their faith will be strengthened because of the evidence that is presented.

"There have been many atheists, for example, when they are willing to just let the evidence lead to its natural conclusion.

I think it leads them to realize that this book is accurate in what it claims to be."

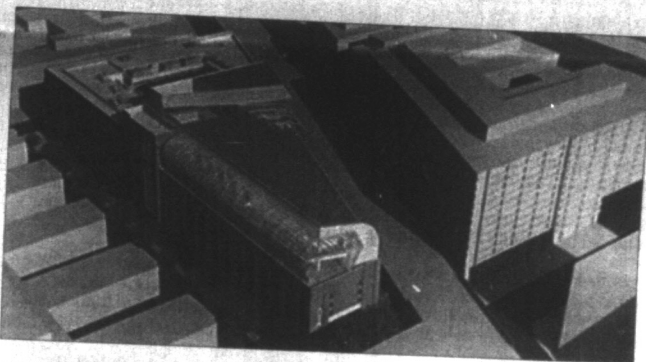
The Bible's history, impact, and narrative will comprise the main focus of the museum, Green said, showing the reliability of Scripture as a historical document.



**STORYTELLING SPACE** — A rendering of Abraham's Tent, an immersive storytelling space slated for the Museum of the Bible's fourth floor, will be dedicated to biblical narratives. Oscar-nominated firm BRC Imagination Arts of Burbank, Calif., is designing the space. (BP image courtesy of BRC Imagination Arts)

## CONSTRUCTING STARTING

An artist's rendering exposes details of the 430,000-foot Museum of the Bible to be built at the site of the former Washington Design Center, just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol. Construction is slated to begin Dec. 1. (BP image courtesy of Smith Group JJR)



## IMPACT FLOOR

— The Museum of the Bible's Impact floor, dedicated to the Bible's influence on our world, will include real-time social media and a high-tech, interactive video recording booth for visitors. (BP image courtesy of C&G Partners)

"I think the evidence shows that the Bible is accurate," Green said, "but we won't say it's accurate; we just present the information and we will let the visitor make their own decision."

The museum will present the history of the Bible's nar-

rative and show its impact on society, Green said.

"The evidence will show that when we've applied [the biblical narrative] to principles, it has been good for society and again, that judgment we leave up to the visitor," he said. "[People] just need to know the story of the Bible. What is the narrative from Genesis to Revelation? [We aim] for the person that has never read it, that knows nothing, to have a basic understanding of what the Bible's message is, what its narrative is."

The museum will allow visitors to explore the Bible's impact on world culture and modern civilization, including literature, fine arts, architecture, education, science, film, music, family, government, law, human rights, and social justice. Archaeological and historic treasures, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient Torah scrolls, early New Testament texts, rare biblical manuscripts, and first-edition Bibles will be included, said Cary Summers, the museum's chief operating officer.

"We've assembled the best in architectural, interior, and environmental design to provide Museum of the Bible guests with an experience that is unique, innovative, customizable to each visitor's level of interest and, most of all, memorable," Summers said in a press release.

Exhibits will allow visitors to walk through a replica of first-century Nazareth and also witness the preservation, translation, and transmission of the Bible over time from clay tablets revealing the earliest writings to today's digital Bible. Visitors will take a high-definition, sensory ride through history, offering dynamic encounters with historical people, places, and events that changed the world.

A state-of-the-art 1,000-seat lecture hall, a lobby with a floor-to-ceiling interactive media wall, a performing arts theater, a children's area, restaurants seating 500, and a rooftop garden with panoramic views of Washington are also planned. A real-time social media hub will allow visitors to download their own memories of the Bible.

Joining Clark Construction in the museum project are The PRD Group, C&G Partners, and BRC Imagination Arts. Scholars, writers and museum experts are assembling artifacts and developing content for the museum's primary exhibits.

The Green family purchased the museum site in 2012 for \$50 million. The museum plans to charge a modest admission, Green said, though pricing has not been determined.



**Directions**  
With Jim Futral,  
executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

## Count Your Blessings

It is a song from my childhood and even into my adulthood but probably half of the population has never even heard the song entitled, "Count Your Blessings." It seemed to have always been sung around Thanksgiving, but in the churches where I grew up, I remember singing it much more often than just once a year. The refrain says, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." But it seems of great value to every one of us to pause for a few moments and reflect on the many blessings that God has given us - great and small. Now, somewhere in your journey of life you may have been at a Thanksgiving get together or maybe even in school when the challenge before you was to take the word "Thanksgiving" and see how many different words you can make with the letters from just that one big word. But today's challenge is to find you a piece of paper and just write down the left side the word "Thanksgiving" and for you to fill in the blanks of things for which you give thanks that begin with those letters. If you do, you will end up with a dozen reasons to give thanks that are shaped just for your life and offered to our God. Here is my list for right now.

**TALK** - Talking is a wonderful thing. As you well know, some people talk more than others and you also know that talk has different significance connected to it. Just one word can bring joy and great delight when the question is asked, "Will you marry me?" and the young lady says, "Yes!" But you know, if you stop and think about over the journey of your life, you will probably remember one moment after another where someone said something that came to your heart as a great word of encouragement or hope or even correction. I am well aware that talk can be hurtful and laced with barbs and inflict pain. Today, forget all that and focus on wonder and power of a word God used in your life when someone talked to you.

**HAPPINESS** - In the founding documents of our country our leaders of that day concluded this new found country would hold on to the pursuit of happiness. While some people look down on happiness, I have never known of anybody who enjoyed unhappiness and I've never met anybody who did not want to be happy. I guess the problem is how do you stay happy and in reality, what is happiness? Well, for sure it is a wonderful state of mind and emotions and it seems as though some people have a lot more of it than other people do.

**ASSOCIATES** - Here I'm giving thanks for all of those folks that God puts in my life day after day that bring enormous blessings to me, friends and family, kids and characters, and wonderful people at work. Your mind may revert to all those people who weren't in your life. Well, just do a U-turn there and look at the ones who do make life worth living. If there's not but one, pick him or her out and focus on it. Years ago I read a question that has stuck with me and frequently becomes a part of my look at life and the question was, "What if you had everything in the world, money, fame, ability, intellect, everything you can imagine and no one to share it with?" You would not only be alone but lonely beyond description. So today, I must say, "God, thank you, for the incredible people who have encircled my life year after year through the entire journey of my days."

**NOTHING** - It may sound strange that you would thank God for nothing but if you will pause and look back over this past year at all of the things that could have happened and didn't happen, you would have to say, "Thank God." Generally, we focus on the bad or difficult things that did come our way and do not even consider the multiplicity of things that didn't happen - wrecks and flat tires, flu or broken bones, hurricanes that didn't come and families that did not break up. If you and I could sit down together for about an hour, we could probably fill up several pages of things that did not come our way this year. So thank God for nothing.

**KNOWLEDGE** - Knowledge is a wonderful thing. I am aware that it can also be a dangerous thing. It can puff you up; it can make you arrogant. Like the temptation in the garden to Adam and Eve, "You can be as wise as God." No, but having knowledge can enable you to be more capable, more helpful, a greater blessing to others. I realize that I have been on a lifelong journey of seeking knowledge and seeking to acquire knowledge only to find out the more I know the more I realize how much I don't know. But I am thankful for knowledge and for all of the facilities in my life that enabled me to read and write, study, think and retain some knowledge.

**SAVIOR** - Right here toward the center of Thanksgiving is the source of all of our glorious and eternal gifts the Lord Jesus Himself. The One who said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Oh, give thanks to Him. He alone can forgive your sins. He alone can set you free. Jesus alone, our Savior, can give to us life led by God and life overflowing with blessings and life that never ends. He is my Savior.

**GOSPEL** - The announcement came from heaven that a Savior was born. The Good News spread everywhere and the news continues to resound today, the Gospel. The Good News from God that we can be saved is a note of thanksgiving that should be sung by all of us. If you know Jesus as your Savior, pause and think about the day, the place, the experience when the Good News from heaven rang in your heart and ears. What a day that was and it was all because of the Gospel.

**IMMORTALITY** - In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul says this mortal, talking about us and our bodies, will put on immortality, talking about us living forever. Every person will die. Those who know the Lord will pass through death to live eternally with the Lord. Those who have rejected Him die passing through death to eternal death, separation from God. A good friend of mine years ago said he didn't fear death; he just did not like the process you have to go through to get there. He was facing some days of pain because of disease and sickness. He knew eternity was his in Christ Jesus. Immortality is a glorious thing to pause and give thanks to God for.

**VISION** - I believe it was Helen Keller who remarked one day how sad it was that some people have eyes but cannot see. It is true. She was not talking about that they lacked 20/20 vision, but they were insensitive to see the needs around them or the work of God above them. Vision is a precious thing. Give thanks.

**INSISTENCE** - For me, I'm referring to the fact that God does not give up on us. He doesn't get frustrated and walk away, angry and stop loving us, peevish and play games of punishment with us. No, He keeps on loving us, reaching out to us, encouraging us, nudging us, sometimes and how thankful I am, pushing us to keep on walking in His ways and in His will. He is insistent. He wants us to be blessed, but He wants us to be made into the image of His dear Son.

**NATION** - In an imperfect world plagued with people who are not everything we want them to be or they themselves want to be or God wants them to be, a nation is formed and we become a part of this incredible experiment and expression of freedom and justice. The nation itself may not be perfect, but oh, what a blessing it is to live in this great country. Whatever difficulties we may be going through the truth is that people around the rest of the globe would give anything to swap places with us. Indeed, we need to give thanks and pray for our leaders and for us as participants.

**GRACE** - The entire list above is yours and mine by the grace of God, the unmerited, undeserved favor of God. Look at your list and not one thing on it is deserved by you regardless of how much good you have done or how hard you have wanted to be perfect. God has blessed you and it is by His grace that we have life and hope and future. So thank Him, for by grace you are saved, for by grace do you walk and live and have your being. Have a great Thanksgiving and stop and count your blessings.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## OBITUARIES

**Charles Alan Woodward**, 66, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor and retired director of pastoral leadership development for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, died August 20. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from William Carey College (now William Carey University) in Hattiesburg, a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and a Doctor of Theology in New Testament Studies degree from New Orleans Seminary (NOBS). He was an adjunct instructor at both William Carey and NOBS, and in 2008 received the Circle of Excellence Distinguished Service Award from the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey. Woodward was also the author of Sunday School curriculum lessons and Biblical Illustrator articles for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Frances Wright Woodward; his mother, Helen Herring Woodward; a brother, John Woodward; three sisters: Janet Locke, Debby Johnson, and Donna Rudolph; three sons: Gregory Alan Woodward, Johnathan Mark Woodward, and Charles David Woodward; and ten grandchildren.

**Ed Hewlett Sr.**, 102, pastor and Greenwood native, died Oct. 17 in Clarence, N.Y. He was called into the Gospel ministry while a student at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, and received a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He went on to pastor churches in Kentucky, Missouri, and New York, and served as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board) of the Southern Convention (SBC) and New Orleans Seminary. Hewlett also served as a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention Board and as moderator of the St. Louis (Mo.) Association. Upon retirement, Hewlett worked with the Mission Service Corps program of the SBC Home Mission

Board (now North American Mission Board) to establish Browncroft Church in Rochester, N.Y., where he continued to preach past the age of 100. He was active in the Baptist Convention of New York, serving as its president. In 2013, he was recognized at MC Homecoming as the Baptist-affiliated university's oldest alumnus. Hewlett was preceded in death in 2011 by his wife of 73 years, Mildred Robertson Hewlett. He is survived by three children: Sally Taylor of Portland, Or.; Ed Jr., of Clarence, N.Y.; and Janie Winscott of Prentiss. He was also grandfather to nine and great-grandfather to 20. Interment was at Clear Creek Church in Oxford.

**Sylvia Green**, formerly of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, died in Dallas, Texas, on October 29 following a lengthy illness. Born on July 12, 1932, she was the only child of the late Mr. and Mrs. Willard Green of Crystal Springs. While a student at Crystal Springs Consolidated School, she studied piano under the tutelage of Mrs. T. H. Cook. After her high school graduation at Crystal Springs, she earned a music degree at Mississippi State College for Women, now Mississippi University for Women. Green dedicated her life to full-time Christian service, and served for many years, primarily in the music ministries of two large churches in the City of Dallas: First Church and East Grand Church. She was a gifted pianist and organist and played in many other churches in and around Dallas and beyond, as well as serving as accompanist for many denominational conventions, revivals, and concerts. After a formal funeral service in Dallas, Green was interred beside her parents in the Crystal Springs City Cemetery, where a graveside service was officiated by Reverend Joel E. Haire, Pastor Emeritus of Green's childhood church, First Church of Crystal Springs. Haire was assisted by Landon Smith, Youth Minister at First Church.



# First Person: Intimacy requires commitment

FINAL IN A SERIES

By Barbie Sullivan  
Correspondent

As an obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN), I get questions on a daily basis from women of all ages about intimacy and sexual relations. My fellow physicians participating in the HealthWorks DVD series do, too. We all see this as a very important topic for discussion, and I encourage you to view the final session in our video series described below. There are definitely medical conditions and medications that



SULLIVAN

affect sexual response. Having a frank, open conversation with your physician may help you better understand what is going on within your body. Sometimes a medication change or a dosage adjustment may solve the problem. Sometimes it is discussion between spouses with your physician about what to expect in your intimate relationship after a new baby is born, after a heart attack, or after a major disease is diagnosed.

In reality, though, I more often see the effects that fatigue and stress have on a relationship. Fatigue for both spouses may be the greatest threat to meaningful intimacy. For some it's the "Mommy Syndrome." This is my thirtyish mother with three young children, a husband, a job, meals to prepare, laundry to manage, and a house to clean. Intimacy requires an

investment of time and for these women, there is no time left over at the end of the day.

In today's economy, both husband and wife may work outside the home, and one or both may have more than one job to make ends meet. With partners stressed to the max, anxiety and depression are readily present in today's society. There doesn't seem to be any focused time left for spouse or family.

Dr. Johnston and Dr. Harper remind the men in our DVD audience that their sexual relationship with their wife will only be as good as their relationship in total. Sex is an expression of intimacy and communication at the deepest level. Invest quality time in your relationship and reconnect with each other.

For most of us, life is not like in the movies or a romance novel. We lead hectic, frantic,

and fatiguing lives. So what can we do to create the true intimacy we desire in our marriages? As a spouse you have to work at intimacy. Invest time and effort in your relationship. Spend time together developing your mental relationship. Connect with each other on all levels, not only sexually. Keep the lines of communication open. It sounds simple, but it takes constant effort.

Little expressions go a long way. For that frazzled mom, it may be a husband who comes through the door anxious to be with his children at the end of the workday. When she sees his willingness to share in the family responsibilities, she knows she is not alone. Ann Landers may have said it best in her statement that there is nothing sexier than a man folding laundry.

Wives, in the midst of your busy day, think of one special thing you could do for your husband and do it.

When you and your spouse have a loving, intimate relationship, you are not the only ones who benefit. So do your children. Raising children in an atmosphere of love and acceptance is one of the greatest gifts you can give them.

This HealthWorks series is informative, entertaining, and wrapped in a Bible study format that just may inspire you to get started. Learn more about this series and place an order at [HealthWorksDVD.com](http://HealthWorksDVD.com).

Sullivan is a physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology at The Woman's Clinic in Jackson and Madison. She is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.



Who: Magnolia Boys Quartet

Where: First Baptist Church of Fannin,  
101 Church Road  
Brandon, MS 39047

When: Saturday Night, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM

Admission is free, love offering will be taken.

For more information, contact the church office at 601-829-1004.

## Collegians flood Baptist Building

By Megan Cole  
Correspondent

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) hosted Student Day at the Baptist Building in Jackson on October 14. Students from the three Baptist colleges in Mississippi — Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi College in Clinton, and William Carey University in Hattiesburg — were invited to enjoy an information-packed tour filled with sweet treats, love, and fellowship.

The day began at 8:30 a.m. with hot breakfast and an introduction by Barri Shirley, MBCB associate executive director for business services. Students and professors drove up to four hours in order to arrive on time. The Skyroom was quickly filled by crowds of students eager to learn about what goes on behind the Baptist Building doors.

"You are a part of this building, we work for the Lord, but you are the center," shared Shirley. The masses of students were divided into seven different groups. These groups were formed by randomized stickers on the tour schedule. The tour itself consisted of rotating groups for each major MBCB ministry department. Sessions averaged approximately 15 minutes each. This gave students just enough time to introduce themselves, learn, and ask questions.

Many MBCB employees and students made meaningful connections with one another over breakfast, lunch, and especially throughout the sessions. Some students and employees found they had similar interests and callings, while others realized they lived in the same area and went to the same church. Session content varied from informative PowerPoint presentations, seminars, and discussions, to trivia games, and Jeopardy. Bowls of candy were passed around, and students stocked up. The "What's your major?" question was asked several times, and students proudly stood up for Christ as they shared God's calling in their lives by pursuing religious studies. In turn, employees exemplified the love of Christ by intentionally helping students find the answers they needed. After each session, brochures, pamphlets, and books were provided as resources from each ministry. Students filled up the provided bags with information to help them seek their place in the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention, and beyond. One unifying point of each department's individual session was the Cooperative Program (CP). The CP is the financial center of cooperation between each state's churches, state convention, and



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the Southern Baptist Convention.

The CP provides a monthly blessing to committed ministry students, many of whom participated in Student Day thanks to the over 2,100 Mississippi Baptist churches who give to CP. A substantial difference is being made in young lives because of obedient Christians across the state. Missions, education, and benevolent work are all supported CP. Without CP gifts, MBCB would not be able to do all that it does.

There is no doubt that students felt the love of Christ at this year's Student Day. Each session presented a new opportunity to discover the inner workings and variety of ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, while getting to know brothers and sisters in Christ from Mississippi's Baptist schools.

Relationships bloomed, and God's name was glorified. Student Day successfully revealed the level of importance SBC places on its students. College students across the state are and will continue to be deeply blessed and cared for by the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Cole, from Carriere, is a reporter for The Collegian, Mississippi College's student newspaper.



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## Just for the Record



**TOPISAW CHURCH, BOQUE CHITTO**, celebrated their ground breaking ceremony Nov. 9. Construction on the new 300 seat sanctuary will begin this month.



**ROLLING CREEK CHURCH, QUITMAN**, held a baby dedication Sept. 28, with pastor Ronnie Cooper presiding over the service.



Members and guests of the Fannie Wilson Sunday School Class, **WANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO**, recently toured Boswell Industries in Magee, the museum of Boswell Regional Center, and had lunch in the BRC dining room.



**BETHEL CHURCH, LINCOLN ASSOCIATION**, held a trunk or treat event Oct. 29. Deborah Moak lead a devotion, with fire for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. Chili, nachos, and brownie sundaes were also served.



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- Serve as paid staff in an MBCB church with 150 or fewer in-worship or serve as a bivocational MBCB minister.
- Affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and the Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.
- Engage in personal evangelism and submit reports on evangelistic activity.
- Be interviewed by the Director of the Caskey Center for Church Excellence.

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[www.nobts.edu/CaskeyCenter](http://www.nobts.edu/CaskeyCenter) | 504.282.4455, Ext. 8227



## Just for the Record



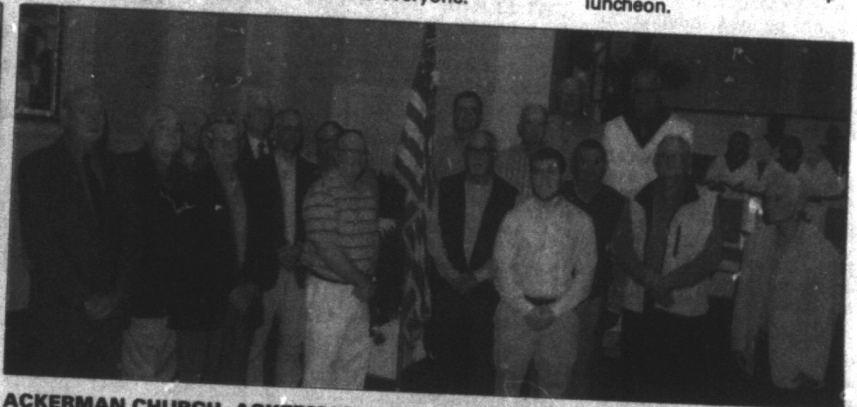
**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, observed Trunk or Treat Oct. 29 with over 125 children participating. There were over 300 total involved in the activity. The adults were involved in a chili cook-off and hot dogs were served to everyone.



**MOUNT VERNON CHURCH, MINTER CITY**, honored pastor Robert Smith Jr. Oct. 26 on his 18th anniversary as pastor. The church presented him with gifts, cards, and a fellowship luncheon.



**CALVARY CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, honored Reuben McDowell Oct. 26 for 20 years service as minister of music. Shown are McDowell, his wife Tracy, and children Logan and Sawyer.



**ACKERMAN CHURCH, ACKERMAN**, honored its veterans Nov. 9.



**NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY**, held a Blessings for Women dinner program Nov. 8. Servers included Michael Shelton, Allan Wyatt, and Mitchell Swindle; Alyssa Avant, speaker.



The youth department of **MT. OLIVE CHURCH, BALDWIN**, showed their appreciation for military veterans and their families by cooking and serving breakfast for them Nov. 9.

### In other Church News:

➤ **Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive**, will hold a note burning service Nov. 23 followed by dinner on the grounds. Joe McKeever, speaker; Nelson Crozier, pastor.



**NEW HOPE CHURCH, FOXWORTH**, ordained Brock White as deacon Nov. 9. Shown with White is pastor Tim Parker.



**FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, celebrated 16 professions of faith among their children and youth between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Seventeen were baptized Dec. 22, 2013, during the morning service. Shown are pastor Jay Anderson with some of those baptized that day.

# MBC messengers approve four resolutions

## NO. 1 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

**WHEREAS**, the 179th Annual Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the recipients of the kind hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

**WHEREAS**, we the messengers of the 179th Annual Session have been blessed, encouraged and challenged by the fellowship, worship, reports and have had the opportunity to conduct business as planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions, and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Convention officers and committees:

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that with hearts filled with gratitude we express appreciation to:

Dr. Mark Smith, senior pastor; Rev. Bob Gladney, executive pastor; the staff, and members of First Baptist Church of Jackson,

The speakers, singers and instrumentalists who led us in worship during the convention.

Dr. Matt Buckles, our Convention President, who has led this year as president with a marvelous Christ-like spirit and has been an outstanding ambassador across Mississippi and far beyond.

And to all of the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully.

## NO. 2 RESOLUTION ON THE FAMILY

**WHEREAS**, The family is the basic unit of human society, established by the creative decree of God; and

**WHEREAS**, The family is rooted in God's gift of marriage, which the Creator defines as the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:18-25); and

**WHEREAS**, This union of one man and one woman is the only form of marriage prescribed in the Bible as God's perfect design for the family and as the illustration to humanity of the relationship between Christ and the Church (Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:22-32); and

**WHEREAS**, This traditional family provides the ideal environment for training

and nurturing future generations (Deuteronomy 6:4-9); and

**WHEREAS**, The biblical model of the family is increasingly undermined by a divorce culture that views marriage as a convenient and non-binding arrangement; and

**WHEREAS**, Current attempts are being made by some states (e.g. Massachusetts) to redefine marriage as a "voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of all others"; and

**WHEREAS**, The courts are presently declaring unconstitutional state Defense of Marriage Acts and the biblical definition of marriage; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, October 28-29, 2014, reaffirm their commitment to biblical marriage; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That Mississippi Baptist churches and pastors be encouraged to proclaim scriptural principles relative to the strengthening of marriages and families through faithful preaching and teaching of the Bible; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That we, as Mississippi Baptists, model the love and compassion of our Lord in all matters concerning marriage and the family and that we strive to create intentional methods of ministry to all people.

## NO. 3 RESOLUTION ON GENDER IDENTITY

**WHEREAS**, All persons are created in God's image and are made to glorify Him (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 43:7); and

**WHEREAS**, God's design was the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6) which designate the fundamental distinction that God has embedded in the very biology of the human race; and

**WHEREAS**, Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles as ordained by God are part of the created order and should find expression in every human heart (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 2:12-14); and

**WHEREAS**, The Fall of man into sin and God's subsequent curse have introduced brokenness and futility into

God's good creation (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 8:20); and

**WHEREAS**, Transgenderism is when the sex of the individual is not biologically ambiguous but psychologically ambiguous; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Psychiatric Association removed this condition (aka, "gender identity disorder") from its list of disorders in 2013, substituting "gender identity disorder" with "gender dysphoria" (or gender dissatisfaction); and

**WHEREAS**, The American Psychiatric Association includes among its treatment options for gender dysphoria cross-sex hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery, and social and legal transition to the desired gender; and

**WHEREAS**, News reports indicate that parents are allowing their children to undergo these therapies; and

**WHEREAS**, Many LGBT activists have sought to normalize the transgender experience and to define gender according to one's self-perception apart from biological anatomy; and

**WHEREAS**, The separation of one's gender identity from the physical reality of biological birth sex poses the harmful effect of engendering an understanding of sexuality and personhood that is fluid; and

**WHEREAS**, Some public schools are encouraging parents and teachers to affirm the feelings of children whose self-perception of their own gender is at variance with their biological sex; and

**WHEREAS**, Some public schools are allowing access to restrooms and locker rooms according to children's self-perception of gender and not according to their biological sex; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Mississippi allows for individuals to legally change their gender identity permitting individuals of the same biological sex to legally marry and raise children which is greatly injurious to the family, the local church's primary means of Christian discipleship; and

**WHEREAS**, These cultural currents run counter to the biblical teaching as summarized in The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, Article III, that "Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning

work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation"; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, October 28-29, 2014, affirm God's good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one's self-perception—a perception which is influenced by "alien human nature in ways contrary to God's design (Ephesians 4:17-18); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we grieve the reality of human fallenness which can result in such biological manifestations as intersexuality, and that we point all to the hope of the redemption of our bodies in Christ (Romans 8:23); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we extend love and compassion to those whose sexual self-understanding is shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their gender identity; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we invite all who consider themselves transgender persons and who struggle with gender identity to trust in Christ and to experience renewal in the Gospel (1 Timothy 1:15-16); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we love our neighbors who consider themselves transgender persons and who struggle with gender identity, seek their good always, welcome them to our churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive them into church membership (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Galatians 5:14); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we regard our neighbors who consider themselves transgender persons and who struggle with gender identity as image-bearers of Almighty God and therefore condemn acts of abuse or bullying committed against them; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we oppose efforts to alter one's bodily identity (e.g., cross-sex hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery) to refashion it to conform with one's perceived gender identity; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we continue to oppose steadfastly all efforts by any governing official or body to validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy (Isaiah 5:20); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we oppose all cultural efforts to validate claims to transgender identity; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That our love for the Gospel and urgency for the Great Commission must include declaring the whole counsel of God, proclaiming what Scripture teaches about God's design for us as male and female persons created in His image and for His glory (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 20:27; Romans 11:36).

## NO. 4 RESOLUTION ON THE STATE FLAG

*In the matter of No. 4 Resolution on the State Flag, a statement by Mississippi Baptist Convention President Matt Buckles was adopted by messengers.*

The matter of the state flag of Mississippi is of concern to many within our state. When the issue of changing the flag came for a vote before the citizens of our state, Dr. Futral, Dr. Porter, and many of you supported this change. I went on record in 2001 being in support of the new flag, even placing a bumper sticker on my vehicle with the proposed flag of 17 stars in a circle. This proposed change in the state flag was not accepted by our citizens.

As a state convention however, we support racial reconciliation and recognize that all human beings are created equal and made in the image of God. Our state convention has sought to model these biblical convictions in word and deed.

We are pleased to see the growth of African-Americans in our convention, serving in leadership roles in our convention, associations, campuses, and other staff positions, even in traditionally white churches. Additionally we have made strides in welcoming the Hispanic community into our convention and churches. These strides can be seen in a Hispanic pastor and messenger serving as Second Vice-President of our convention. Amid victories and blessings in racial reconciliation, and yet dealing with simmering and serious racial struggles in our nation, we as the Mississippi Baptist Convention have sought to love all mankind, prove that love in deed and truth, and challenge each other to be models of and channels for blessings of God's love to be given individually and pervasively. May the Lord our God help us to continue to do this heavenly work on earth.



## Revivals & Homecomings

► Fairview Church, Indianola: 141st homecoming, Nov. 23; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Greg Moore, speaker.

## BIBL iO C i P H E R

BEF HWSNSIJIT CXJIOU BEF UICXIJIOU

XE DI NWBCC EIJIT FXI, UICXIJINO

OWSK OWXN?

YSWE ICIIJE: OHIEOL-NXQ

Clue: J = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts 13:39

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## HRC

cont. from p. 1

and Mississippi. HRC has committed \$8.5 million and 20 staffers for the first three years of what it calls "permanent campaigns" in those states.

No. pro-LGBT laws exist at the state or local level in Alabama and Mississippi, and only one city in Arkansas has such an ordinance. The citizens of Fayetteville, Ar., will vote Dec. 9 on whether to overturn it. In addition, the constitutions of all three states bar same sex marriage.

Described by an online LGBT publication as "the nation's 10,000-pound, gay charity gorilla," HRC gives every indication of being in the struggle for the long term with the resources necessary for such an effort. Founded in 1980 as a political action committee, HRC has amassed the support from within the government, corporations, media, and popular culture needed to sustain a perpetual push for its cause.



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The Southern Baptist Convention's lead ethicist said campaigns like that of HRC's effort in Mississippi "will only continue."

"Red states and Bible Belts do not provide adequate protection from these cultural trends," Russell D. Moore said when the All

God's Children campaign was launched. Moore is president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.



MOORE

Instead, efforts to gain acceptance of the LGBT cause, including same sex marriage, call for particular responses from Baptists and other evangelicals, leading commentators said.

Churches must be "preaching and articulating a Christian vision of sexuality as rightly expressed in the one-flesh union of a man and a woman," Moore said. Preaching and teaching "must not stop at morals but go

on to show how marriage is rooted in the Gospel, as a picture of Christ and the church. And our churches must be, like Jesus and His apostles, those who call for repentance of sin and those who offer mercy to all who come to Christ in repentance and faith," he said.

In an email interview with BP, Stonestreet recommended a three-fold response:

■ "First, churches need to clearly teach the inherent dignity of all people, because we are made in the image of God. When Christians respond to the LGBT community without that undergirding everything else we say and do, we inadvertently endorse a very bad anthropology that is at the root of our sexual confusion.

■ "Second, we need to teach a solid theology of sexuality and gender. Christians say "no" to various expressions of sexual sin because of God's great, brilliant gift of sexuality. This has to be understood.

■ "Third, the church should find ways to reach out to, and truly love, members of the LGBT community. If we are honest, 'love the sinner, hate the sin' is a bad mantra, and we've done a whole lot more hating the sin than ever loving the sinner. We must find ways to love, without endorsing behavior that is biblically described as sinful."

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## MS POSITIONS

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FBC OF TREMONT, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF PASTOR. Please send resumes to: PO Box 132, Tremont, MS 38876

PART TIME: YOUTH/CHILDREN'S LEADER OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS 39114. Part Time: Youth/Children's leader individual or Couple. Salary is Negotiable. Contact: bgblair057@gmail.com

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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director  
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Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Marriages and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to foster honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been significant in our lives.

### AUGUST 2014 MEMORIALS

Waymond Horton  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade L. Allen  
Katherine Howard  
Arlington Heights BC  
W. J. and Leone Howard  
Mr. Michael Davis  
Mrs. Patty Howell  
T.E.L. SSC, Clarksdale BC  
Lounette Hughes  
Mrs. Opal Vickers  
Jefie Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry R. Fulton  
Mr. Andy Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Pauline Jones  
Mrs. Willie Frances Jones  
Vollie Jones  
Pilgrim's Rest BC, Gleaners SSC  
Leslie Killebrew  
Heath, Susan, Alix & Abby  
Lynch  
Edith B. Kirk  
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby  
Mr. Don Lambert  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Rebekah Lay  
Mrs. Margaret Lay  
Ms. Estelle Lindsey  
Ms. Carol Lee  
Martin (Buddy) Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys  
Mrs. Sandy Magee  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Allen  
Mary Catherine Mathis  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander  
Mr. James (Bud) McCroty  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Brenda McCullough  
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Coleman  
Bruce McGinnis  
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Harrington  
Mrs. Mary Garner  
Mr. Johnny McKenzie

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Mattie Grace McMillan  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
Shirley Dixon Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion H. Johnston  
Mr. Bill Moore  
Ms. Carolyn L. Rigdon  
Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Mahlon  
Aorgan, Sr.  
MS Sports HOF & Museum  
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Mr. Wilmer J. James  
Mrs. Bertie Weeks  
Mr. Hubert W. Miazza  
Thomas Mullins Jr.  
Inez McCain and Virginia Gay  
Cleveland T. Myrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde L. Blount  
Mr. Jimmy Nelms  
Mrs. Lona M. Southerland  
Marvin M. Overstreet  
Mrs. Laurie Busby Kleynhans  
Mrs. Betty A. Busby  
Toby E. Phillips  
Ms. Penny D. Methvin  
Lynn Johnson Pigg  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Ramsey  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Jacqueline Polk  
Brooks & Betty Polk  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pope  
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Mother of Katherine Prentiss  
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### SEPTEMBER 2014

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## Mississippi Gives Day

—WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014—

The Baptist Children's Village is participating in the first ever Mississippi Gives Day. It is a one day event where Mississippians are encouraged to give online to their favorite charity, but you don't have to wait until December to participate. We ask that you visit [www.mississippigives.org](http://www.mississippigives.org) today and give or setup your own fundraising page to help raise money that will give Mississippi children help and hope through the love of Jesus. Call Chrystelle Thames, BCV Public Relations Director at 601-952-2422 or email her at [cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com) for more information. We can do this together!



## A New Kind of Family • Hebrews 12:18-24

In our lesson today, the author of Hebrews presents us with a contrast of two different experiences, present and future (but also partly realized). The first recalls the past event of the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19. The reader is reminded of the awesome theophany (appearance of God in visible form) that Israel experienced just before the wilderness wanderings when God began to form them into a nation with a set of social and theological commands called the Ten Commandments. The second is the future description of the heavenly and eternal Jerusalem through Christ. Paul uses similar imagery when dealing with the Judaizers in Galatians 4:24-27, "But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother."

### From a Terrifying Encounter (18-21)

Mount Sinai, coming at the very beginning of the years spent in the wilderness, symbolizes not only the Mosaic law-giving and the institution of the Aaronic priesthood but also the wanderings, the non-arrival, of that generation which was under a cloud of condemnation because of its infidelity and ingratitude and which perished in the wilderness; whereas Mount Zion symbolizes the establishment of the unique and everlasting priesthood of Christ, the

fulfillment in him of all the promises of the new covenant, the end of wandering, and the entry into the eternal rest prepared for the people of God. (Hebrews, Hughes, 544)

The scene at Sinai was truly terrifying. The Israelites had probably not seen anything quite like it. Nothing of the plagues resembled anything close to it. They had seen God turn water to blood, infest the city with frogs, gnats and flies; they had seen the Egyptian livestock struck dead; a pandemic of boils throughout the Egyptian people and beasts; they saw hail and locusts come from the sky and destroy nearly everything and had seen the darkness that could be "felt." They had also witnessed the horrifying reality of the plague of the first born and heard the wailing of the Egyptians as their children died. However, on the third day after they arrived at Mt. Sinai, they were awakened by thunder, lightening, a thick cloud on the mountain and a loud trumpet blast. There was blazing fire, darkness, gloom and

a tempest, trumpet blasts and were warned not to approach the mountain by God. It probably seemed like a volcanic eruption with 100 times the intensity and voices.

The story of Sinai and of the establishment of Israel's covenant with Yahweh thus symbolizes for our author a religion of fear and separation, which is the very opposite of the confident approach to God that

Christ has won for his people. The following verses (22-24) speak of a religion where the worshiper is no longer kept at

will always be; however, the Law and along with it, Sinai, have served their ultimate purpose. The Law was one of the building blocks of God's ultimate covenant of Grace through Christ, as it increased the trespass, increasing the realization of the need for one who could completely fulfill it. Now that Christ has come, died, and risen again, we are no longer slaves of sin, but have been set free. We have come to Mt. Zion, and are now citizens of the city of the Living God. We have angels that tend to us as they did Christ, we have a new family we call the church based on love, forgiveness and reconciliation. We have an ever-present mediator named Jesus Christ forever interceding for us moment by moment and his sprinkled blood speaks a better word than Abel, as Abel is not able to forgive our sins and be our savior.

For this next to last lesson in Hebrews, let us remember the comparison of the old and the new. We compare the dread of the old to the joy of the new, one based on law, the other on Christ, one with Moses as Prophet, the other with Christ as mediator. Praise God we are free! We are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem through Christ Jesus.

Hazzard is pastor of Woodland Church, Columbus.



Explore the Bible  
with Shelby Hazzard

arm's length but welcomed and included. (Hebrews, EBC, France, 177)

### To a Festive Gathering (22-24)

Now that Christ has come, there is a new covenant of grace that is better and a fulfillment of the first. Christ ushered in a new time and transitioned it from a terrifying encounter to a festive gathering. The Law is still alive and well, good and useful and

## Overcome an Earthly Mindset • Genesis 50:15-21

In its November 9th issue saluting our veterans, Parade magazine highlighted David Oclander. Entitled "Back to School" (excerpted from "For Love of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism and Sacrifice"), the inspiring article follows the career change of this seasoned military man.

The West Point-trained soldier had risen through the officer ranks, serving most of two decades in the 82nd Airborne Division, and had been deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. In the latter, he'd commanded a task force of a thousand paratroopers. During a subsequent assignment at the Pentagon, he happened upon this Chicago headline: "Boy, 13, Dead from Gunshot on Basketball Court". A week later, he read of another Chicago child who'd been shot to death. His interest piqued, Oclander did more research and found that homicides in this sprawling metro area exceeded US troops killed in Afghanistan.

"The greatest threats to our country is no longer overseas", he thought to himself. "It's within our borders." The man who'd overseen the work and well-being of massive troops made a dramatic career shift, becoming an English teacher and mentor at a college-prep charter school in one of Chicago's toughest neighborhoods. Oclander's leadership skills, combined with high expectations and a caring attitude, turned life

around for countless students in desperate need of a role model.

This story sets the stage for our final study of the life of Joseph. Consider the lesson's title: "Overcome an Earthly Mindset". Before becoming exposed to Oclander's classroom techniques and "can-do" spirit, the mindset of these students probably provided them a dismal outlook. They'd seen the worst society had to offer, and likely didn't expect things to improve.

However, being mentored by this disciplined teacher gave them a different mindset, one of hope and confidence.

Their past no longer dictated their future. So it was with Joseph. We've seen him face - and overcome - various challenges as he progressed from the dry cistern to the years of menial labor to his time as Egypt's overseer, and finally, to being reunited with his family.

Seventeen years had passed since Jacob and his family had relocated to Egypt (Gen. 47:28), and the elderly patriarch was

on his deathbed. After blessing his sons, he "breathed his last and was gathered to his people" (Gen 49:33 NIV). After a time of mourning and burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, and fears returned to haunt Joseph's siblings. In anxious tones, they discussed their concerns: "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" (Gen. 50:15) Experiencing feelings of guilt because they'd not accepted Joseph's

forgiveness, they fabricated a message to send him, saying "Jacob had asked for him to forgive his brothers for

"the sins and the wrongs they committed" (vs. 17). They ended the message by personally begging his forgiveness. When we refuse to forgive, or accept forgiveness when offered, an uncomfortable rift in a relationship is formed; this may explain why they didn't personally deliver the message. Verse 17 shows how Joseph's tender heart responded to their message; upon hearing the words, he wept. His tears may have

been from his own grief upon learning his brothers were still burdened by fear and guilt.

When they finally had the courage to face Joseph (or maybe because he called for them), the brothers threw themselves down before him, saying "We are your slaves" (vs. 18). They'd been enslaved to guilt's tyranny, but it was time to put it to rest. Joseph's response should be one we'd do well to remember when dealing with affronts: "Am I in the place of God?" (vs. 20) With great kindness, he again acknowledged that God had been in control all along: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (vs. 20). With words of endearing assurance, he told them "don't be afraid" (vs. 21), and promised to care for them and their children.

As he considered what his brothers' rash act many years before had caused him, Joseph could have easily adopted an earthly mindset: to make life as miserable as possible for them. However, he shunned this path, continuing to exemplify an overcoming lifestyle. In Romans 12:17-21, Paul encourages us to do likewise: "Do not repay evil for evil... [d]o not take revenge... overcome evil with good." To whom can you model Joseph's attitude and actions?

Maniscalco is a member of Lemoyne Boulevard Church in Biloxi.

### Bible Studies for Life with Ann Maniscalco



## HOUSING

cont. from p. 1

Crabb, appointed to the federal bench by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, had ruled the allowance violates the First Amendment's prohibition on government establishment of religion. The Obama administration appealed her decision to

the Seventh Circuit Court.

Crabb's decision came as no surprise. In 2010, she ruled that the National Day of Prayer violates the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. A three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit unanimously struck down Crabb's ruling the following year. The appeals court ruled in that case also that Freedom From Religion Foundation did not have

standing to bring the lawsuit.

In addition, on June 6 of this year Crabb overturned Wisconsin voters' passage of a Defense of Marriage Amendment.

Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, affirmed the appeals court decision, telling Baptist Press that the "ministerial housing allowance is just

and fair, and an equitable recognition of the unique employment situation of clergy."

O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, said of the decision, "This is indeed good news for ministers."

Southern Baptists were among numerous religious adherents especially interested in

the case. ERLC and Southern Baptists' International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., signed on to a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the Becket Fund with a diverse array of religious organizations in support of the housing allowance.

GuideStone joined in a brief with other denominational benefit boards as part of the Church Alliance.

# Survey: Americans fuzzy on many theological points

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Most Americans believe in heaven, hell, and a few old-fashioned heresies.

Those are among the findings of a new study of American views about Christian theology from LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Americans also disagree about mixing religion and politics and about the Bible. And few pay much heed to their pastor's sermons or see themselves as sinners, according to the online survey of 3,000 Americans commissioned by Orlando-based Ligonier Ministries.

Stephen Nichols, chief academic officer of Ligonier Ministries, said the study was intended to "take the temperature of America's theological health."

Researchers asked 43 questions about faith, covering topics from sin and salvation to the Bible and the afterlife. They wanted to know how people in the pews — and people on the street — understand theology.

Many Americans get the basics right but are often fuzzy on the details, said Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research. "People like to believe in a generic 'Christian-ish' god with cafeteria doctrines. However, when we asked about harder beliefs — things that the church has [considered] and still considers orthodox — the numbers shift."

Among the study's findings:

■ Americans say heaven is a real place but they disagree about who gets in. Sixty-seven percent of Americans believe heaven is a real place, according to the survey. That includes, following standard demographic categories, 88% of Black Protestants, 90% of evangelicals, three-fourths of Catholics, 37% of non-Christians.

Forty-five percent of Americans say there are many ways to heaven, which conflicts with the traditional Christian view that salvation is linked to faith in Jesus only.

Catholics (67%) and Mainline Protestants (55%) are most likely to say heaven's gates are wide open with many ways to get inside. Evangelicals (19%) and Black Protestants (33%) are more skeptical.

About half of Americans (53%) say salvation is in Christ alone. Forty-one percent say people who have never heard of Jesus can still get into heaven. Thirty percent say people will have a chance to follow God after they die.

■ Hell is a real place, too, but you have to be really bad to go there. Sixty-one percent say hell is real, according to the survey. Black Protestants (86%) and Evangelicals (87%) are most likely to say hell is a real place. Catholics (66%) and Mainline Protestants (55%) are less convinced.

Overall, Americans don't seem too worried about sin or being sent to hell. Sixty-seven percent told researchers that most people are basically good, even though everyone sins a little bit — an optimistic view of human nature at odds with traditional teaching about human sin.

Eighteen percent say even small sins should lead to damnation, while about 55% say God has a wrathful side.

■ When it comes to faith, Americans like a do-it-yourself approach. Seventy-one percent and in particular Black Protestants (82%) and Catholics (87%), say people must contribute some effort toward their own salvation, the survey found. Sixty-four percent say that in order to find peace with God, people have to take the first step, and then God responds to them with grace.

That sounds right to many people, Stetzer said, especially in our "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" culture, but he noted that it doesn't reflect the Christian idea that faith is a response to God's grace.

Many Americans also don't mind being disconnected from a local church. Fifty-two percent say worshipping alone or with family is as good as going to church.

Eighty-two percent say their local church has no authority to "declare that I am not a Christian," according to the survey. Fifty-six percent believe their pastor's sermons have no authority in their life, while slightly 45% say the Bible was written for each person to interpret as they choose.

■ Americans believe in the Trinity, but the details don't reflect traditional views of orthodoxy.

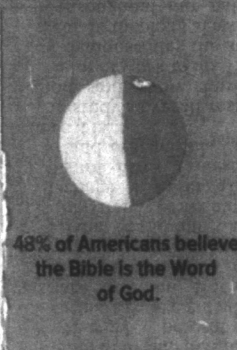
Seventy-one percent of Americans believe in the Trinity. That's the idea that one God exists as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Few Americans — even those in evangelical denominations — can grasp the details of how Christians have historically taught the Trinity. More than half of evangelicals (59%), for example, say the Holy Spirit is a force and not a personal being, accord-

## American Theological Views: The Bible

Percent who agree with these statements:	The Bible is helpful, but not literally true.	The Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches.
Americans	41%	43%
Black Protestants	20%	67%
Catholics	49%	33%
Evangelicals	18%	76%
Mainline Protestants	50%	36%
Non-Christians	57%	19%

LifeWayResearch.com

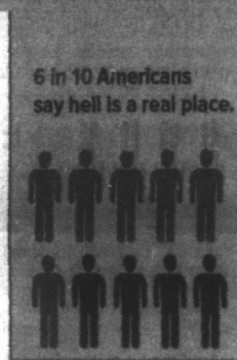


LifeWay

## American Theological Views: Heaven & Hell

Percent who agree with these statements:	Heaven is a real place.	There are many ways to heaven.
Americans	67%	45%
Black Protestants	88%	33%
Catholics	75%	67%
Evangelicals	90%	19%
Mainline Protestants	67%	55%
Non-Christians	37%	47%

LifeWayResearch.com



LifeWay

"This study demonstrates the stunning gap in theological awareness throughout our nation, in our neighborhoods, and even in the seat next to us at church."

Stephen Nichols

chief academic officer of Ligonier Ministries

ing to the survey. Ten percent are not sure, while 31% agree the Spirit is a person. Overall, 64% say the Holy Spirit is a force.

Fifteen percent say the Holy Spirit is less divine than God the Father and Jesus. A third believe God the Father is more divine than Jesus. Nineteen percent say Jesus was the first creature made by God. All of those ideas run counter to Christian doctrine

as found in historic creeds of the church.

■ Some Americans like the Bible. Others are skeptical. Forty-eight percent believe the Bible is the Word of God, the survey found. Forty-three percent say the Bible is 100% accurate, while a similar share of Americans (41%) say it's helpful but not literally true.

Evangelicals (76%) and Black Protestants (67%) are most likely to say the Bible is accurate. Mainline Protestants (50%) and Catholics (49%) lean toward the Bible being helpful but not literally true.

The Bible is not the only religious text on which Americans disagree. Fifty-four percent disagree when asked if the Book of Mormon is a revelation from God. About 10% say the Book of Mormon was revealed by God, while another 36% say they are not sure.

■ Americans disagree about sex, God, and politics. Forty-two percent of Americans and

more than half (55%) of non-Christians say churches should remain silent about politics. Among Christian groups, Catholics (47%) and Mainline Protestants (44%) want less politics in church. Black Protestants (31%) and evangelicals (26%) are less likely to want their church to skip politics.

Forty-eight percent of Americans say sex outside of marriage is a sin. Christian groups are split on the topic, the survey found. Mainline Protestants (44%) and Catholics (40%) don't see sex outside of marriage as sinful. Three-fourths of Black Protestants (74%) and evangelicals (76%) believe it is.

The study's overall results, Nichols said, show churches have a lot of work to do. "This study demonstrates the stunning gap in theological awareness throughout our nation, in our neighborhoods, and even in the seat next to us at church."

» Overall, Americans don't seem too worried about sin or being sent to hell. Sixty-seven percent told researchers that most people are basically good, even though everyone sins a little bit — an optimistic view of human nature at odds with traditional teaching about human sin.